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Friday, June 9, 1944

Subject: Farm Bells Call Women Workers Again. Information from farm labor specialists of the War Food Administration.

The call for women to work on farms is ringing out again . . . louder and more urgent than last year. War has depleted the ranks of experienced farm workers. Women from all walks of life are needed to help take their places. You may be one of the 800,000 women needed to work on farms this year to help produce food.

If you can devote all summer or only a few spare hours to farm work, you can help. If you can give a week-end or a full vacation, you are needed. It doesn't make any difference what your regular occupation is. You can soon learn to do many important farm jobs. College girls, teachers, housewives, women-with-husbands-in the-service, women from offices, factories and stores--all can do farm work.

You can work in one of three ways--according to how much time you can put in on farm work. You can do part-time seasonal work on nearby farms. Or you can work full time for a week or more in a busy farm region, and live in a farm labor camp with other women doing the same work. Or you can serve as a year-round farmhand and live and work with farm family.

The greatest need of course is for part-time workers to help with the peak-season harvest on farms near home . . . picking strawberries or peaches or tomatoes or helping with the hay. Thousands of spare-time women workers held that thin line on the farm front last year that meant the difference between wasting and saving food. More are urgently needed to do the same thing this year.

Women who live in farm work camps are busy during the day planting, cultivating or picking vegetables. Or harvesting peaches, or pears or apples or other fruit. After work, they enjoy swimming and other healthful recreation.

Hundreds of women are becoming full-time farmhands. They do a hired man's share of the milking and feeding, and help with all kinds of general farm jobs. A number of these women have taken farm short courses offered by the state agricultural colleges.

All farm work is paid for at the prevailing rate for the amount and type of work done. So vacation workers who live in farm labor camps and have to pay from eight to ten dollars a week board and lodging earn their own expenses and break even. Many experienced workers make good wages.

Here is how you go about volunteering for farm work the agency you get in touch with and where is it located. If you can work several weeks or all summer, get in touch with your county agricultural extension agent or your local farm employment office. Somebody there will go over the situation with you and tell you how to enroll. These offices are usually located in the county courthouse or the Federal building. If you don't succeed in locating one office or the other, write to the Women's Land Army Supervisor at your state college of agriculture. If you can work only a few hours or a few days, wait for the local call for emergency help in your community. It will come through your local newspaper or over the radio. And you'll be told when and where to apply.

No matter what a woman's going to do, she thinks about the clothes she should wear. Farm work is hard on clothes, of course. Wear things that are suitable to the type of work you are doing. The Women's Land Army outfit is designed especially for farm work and it is easy to wear. This outfit is made up of dark-blue overalls, a choice of long-sleeved or short-sleeved light blue shirt, a short dark-blue jacket for cool mornings, and a hat in two shades of blue that protects your face from the sun. The red, white, and blue insignia of the Women's Land Army is on both the hat and the overalls. The complete outfit is not expensive, and can be bought by getting an order blank from the county agricultural agent. For a short working period, you may just want to wear clothes you can find around the house. You'll

need an old pair of slacks or overalls with a cotton shirt, a wide-brimmed hat, and low-heeled shoes with good thick soles. Cut out all frills that may get caught in farm machinery.

If you decide to pitch in and help out with farm work this summer, nobody will appreciate your help more than the farmers themselves. A Connecticut farmer who used Land Army women on his place last year is an example. He said that when the women first came, he didn't know what to expect. But he couldn't get help any other way, and he was entirely dependent on the women. His first surprise was over the efficiency and good spirit with which they worked. In little or no time, they threw away their gloves, rolled up their sleeves and their pants legs, and turned into a regular bunch of farmhands. By the time the women left, this Connecticut farmer said they were healthy, sunburned, and tough. But more important, they had done something concrete and vital to help their country win the war.

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